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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/928,042	08/10/2001	John Kenneth Floyd Paris	7784-000200	6963

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EXAMINER	
INGBERG, TODD D	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2124	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/928,042	PARIS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Todd Ingberg	2124

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *10 January 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-29* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-29* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *17 January 2002* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *1/10/03*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1 – 29 have been examined.

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The Information Disclosure Statement filed January 10, 2003 has been considered.

Drawings

2. The new drawings filed January 17, 2002 have been accepted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 1 – 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. The claims fail the concrete and tangible test. This rejection can easily overcome. The Examiner has provided one way to overcome the rejection below.

Claim 1

A method **executing on a computer readable medium** of providing a plurality of parameter values to an interface
requiring the plurality of parameter values, the parameter values based upon data inputs including required data inputs and optional data inputs, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving required data input values and specified optional data input values;

performing predetermined functions to calculate data input values for non specified optional data inputs, wherein the calculations are performed independent of the order of the data inputs;

using the calculated values for the non-specified optional data inputs and the values for the required data inputs and specified optional data inputs to determine at least some of the plurality of parameter values; and providing the plurality of parameter values for use by the interface.

Claim 12

A method **executing on a computer readable medium** of providing a wrapped component as part of a software program, the wrapped component using data parameters to determine values for a plurality of inputs required by the software program, the method comprising the steps of:

employing a plurality of data parameter types for use in determining the plurality of inputs;

identifying the data parameters based upon parameter type;

receiving values for at least some of the data parameters of a specific parameter type;

calculating values for at least some of the data parameters of a specific parameter type using predetermined functions and independent of the order of the data parameters and the order of function specification;

determining values for at least some of the plurality of inputs for use by the software program based upon the data parameter values; and

providing the plurality of input values from the component to the software program.

Claim 18

A method **executing on a computer readable medium** for determining the value of each of a plurality of parameters for use as an input file to a computer program, the parameters including required and optional parameters, and the method comprising the steps of: determining the specific parameters to provide as part of the input file;
receiving values for the required parameters and any optional parameter having a specified value; checking that values for the required parameters to be included as part of the input file are specified, and if not specified, providing an error indication; identifying optional parameters not specified to be included as part of the input file; calculating the value of each of the identified non-specified optional parameters independent of the order of the parameters; and providing parameter values as part of the input file for use by the computer program.

Claim 23

An interface **executing on a computer readable medium** for guiding a user to provide a data set to a complex computer program, and providing the data set to the complex computer program, the interface comprising:
means for accepting input of at least one required user input from a user; means for accepting input of at least one optional user input from a user, and in the absence of an input of an optional user input, calculating a default input based upon a predetermined formula using a recursive algorithm; and means for providing the data set of inputs to the complex computer program.

Claim 28

An interface **executing on a computer readable medium** for guiding a user to provide a data set to a complex computer program, the interface comprising a processor programmed to accept inputs of at least one required user input from a user and to accept inputs of at least one optional user input from a user, and to calculate a default input in the absence of an input of an optional user input.

Claim 29
A method **executing on a computer readable medium** of providing inputs to a complex computer program, the method comprising:
accepting required user inputs from a user; and accepting optional user inputs from the user, and in the absence of an input for an optional user input, calculating ,an input based upon a predetermined formula using a recursive algorithm.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 2-4, 19 – 22 and 25 – 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure which is not enabling. "locked data inputs" if interpreted to be overriding the value of a **constant** critical or essential to the practice of the invention, but not included in the claim(s) is not enabled by the disclosure. See *In re Mayhew*, 527 F.2d 1229, 188 USPQ 356 (CCPA 1976).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1 – 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Template Software's programming environment SNAP released in 1997. As documented in the manual The **Template** product line contains:

> The SNAP programming language

The Workflow Template

The Web Component (Not used in this Office Action)

These three layered products work together.

The documentation sets for the products contains the following manuals.

SNAP released June 1997

SNAP Language Reference (Not used in this Office Action)

Using the SNAP Language (Referred to as **SNAP**)

Using the SNAP Communication Component (Referred to as **SCOM**)

Using the SNAP Graphic User Interface Component (Not used in this Office Action)

Getting Started with SNAP (Not used in this Office Action)

Using the SNAP Display Editors (Not used in this Office Action)

SNAP Class Library Reference (Not used in this Office Action)

Using the SNAP External Application Software Component (Not used in this Office Action)

Using the SNAP Development Environment (Referred to as **SENV)**

SNAP Module Library Reference (Not used in this Office Action)

Using the SNAP Permanent Storage Component (Referred to as **PERM**)

Workflow released September 1997

Developing a WFT Workflow System (Not used in this Office Action)

Using the WFT Development Environment (Referred to as **ENV)**

WFT Library Reference (Not used in this Office Action)

Web Component

Using the Web Component (Not used in this Office Action)

Since, these products work together they constitute a single reference and can be used as the basis for a rejection based on anticipated by a product offering. Furthermore, with the 1997 press release announcing version 8.0 these considered prior art under ***In re Epstein*** 31 USPQ2d 1817 (decided August 17, 1994) with a 1997 release date despite the 1998 copyright date.

Claim Interpretation

9. The following are interpretations for terms in the prosecution of this case.

A. **Complex Program** – Applicant has not provided a clear and concise meaning for the term "*complex program*". The Examiner interprets this to be any program which requires data values to be determined by the software.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

11. Claims 1 – 4, 7 – 13, 28 and 29 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Template Software.

Claim 1
Template Software anticipates a method of providing a plurality of parameter values to an interface requiring the plurality of parameter values , the parameter values based upon data inputs including required data inputs and optional data inputs , the method comprising the steps of: receiving required data input values and specified optional data input values; performing predetermined functions to calculate data input values for non specified optional data inputs , wherein the calculations are performed independent of the order of the data inputs (Admitted Prior Art as per Figure 2); using the calculated values for the non-specified optional data inputs and the values for the required data inputs and specified optional data inputs to determine at least some of the plurality of parameter values; and providing the plurality of parameter values for use by the interface.
Examiner's Response

Template employs an inference engine (SNAP, Chapter 6, page 6-3, where values can be assigned a default, pages 6-4 and 6-20 to 6-21 (for example if optional data input is empty default to a value in default clause), or can use the chaining process to determine a value, pages 6-4 to 6-5. SNAP also provides demons to determine attribute values, page 6-7 and attribute value rules, page 6-9to 6-15.

Claim 2
The method according to claim 1 wherein the data inputs further comprise locked data inputs, and further comprising calculating the values of at least some of the locked data inputs using the predetermined functions.
Examiner's Response
The Examiner interprets the locked data input to be a variable not a constant. In Claim 1 a default value can be replaced by an attribute value rule, demon or inference rule.

Claim 3
The method according to claim 2 further comprising receiving values for at least some of the non-specified optional data inputs and using the calculated values and received values of the optional data inputs to determine some of the plurality of parameter values.
Examiner's Response
As per claim 1.

Claim 4
The method according to claim 2 further comprising providing an error indication if a value is input for any of the locked data inputs.
Examiner's Response
SNAP page 6-10, body message statement used when rule determines error.

Claim 8
The method according to claim 1 wherein the plurality of input parameter values are used by an analysis program and wherein the step of providing the plurality of parameter values further comprises configuring the values for use by the analysis program.
Examiner's Response
As per claim 1.

Claim 9
The method according to claim 8 further comprising providing the predetermined functions as a component of a wrapped program for use with the analysis program.
Examiner's Response
In the broadest reasonable interpretation a demon can be interpreted to be a wrapper. The demon is code that executes to return a value for an attribute to an object. SNAP, pages 6 – 22 to 6-39

Claim 10

The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of performing predetermined functions further comprises recursively performing the predetermined functions.
Examiner's Response
Both Inference rules and demons can execute recursively (SNAP, page 6-47).

Claim 11
The method according to claim 10 further comprising employing a branching structure for recursively performing the predetermined functions.
Examiner's Response
In view of claim 10 SNAP page 6-4 Figure 6-1 and related code on page 6-5.

Claim 12
Template Software anticipates a method of providing a wrapped component as part of a software program , the wrapped component using data parameters to determine values for a plurality of inputs required by the software program , the method comprising the steps of: employing a plurality of data parameter types for use in determining the plurality of inputs; identifying the data parameters based upon parameter type; receiving values for at least some of the data parameters of a specific parameter type; calculating values for at least some of the data parameters of a specific parameter type using predetermined functions and independent of the order of the data parameters (Admitted Prior Art as per Figure 2) and the order of function specification (Inherent – control flow); determining values for at least some of the plurality of inputs for use by the software program bas ed upon the data parameter values ; and providing the plurality of input values from the component to the software program.
Examiner's Response
As per claims 1 and 9 above.

Claim 13
The method according to claim 12 wherein the step of calculating values comprises recursively using the predetermined functions to calculate the values.
Examiner's Response
As per claim 10 above.

Claim 28
Template Software anticipates an interface for guiding a user to provide a data set to a complex computer program , the interface comprising a processor programmed to accept inputs of at least one required user input from a user and to accept inputs of at least one optional user input from a user, and to calculate a default input in the absence of an input of an optional user input.
Examiner's Response
As per claim 1 above.

Claim 29
Template Software anticipates a method of providing inputs to a complex computer program , the method comprising: accepting required user inputs from a user ; and accepting optional user

inputs from the user , and in the absence of an input for an optional user input , calculating ,an input based upon a predetermined formula using a recursive algorithm.

Examiner's Response

As per claims 1 and 10 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 5 – 6, 7, 14 – 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Template in view of Visual C++.

Motivation to Combine

Template teaches the determining of values using an inference engine. Template provides programming constructs to validate data but does not explicitly state data validation. It is C++ that explicitly states data validation (VC++, page 375). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine Template with VC++ because validating data provides for integrity in software.

Claim 5

The method according to claim 1 wherein the required data inputs comprise user specified data inputs and predetermined stored data inputs and further comprising checking to ensure that all required data inputs are specified. VC++, page 375, Data Validation.

Claim 6

The method according to claim 5 further comprising providing an error indication if a value is not input for any of the user specified required data inputs. VC++, page 375, Data Validation.

Claim 7

The method according to claim 1 wherein the values of at least some of the required data inputs are provided from a computer program and further comprising confirming the entry of values for the required data inputs from the computer program. VC++, page 375, Data Validation.

Claim 14
The method according to claim 12 wherein the step of employing a plurality of data parameter types comprises using specified data parameters and fixed data parameters. VC++, page 375, Data Validation.

Claim 15
The method according to claim 12 wherein the step of employing a plurality of data parameter types comprises using optional data parameters and required data parameters. VC++, page 375, Data Validation.

Claim 16
The method according to claim 15 further comprising specifying at least some of the optional data parameters. VC++, page 375, Data Validation.

Claim 17
The method according to claim 16 wherein the step of calculating values for at least some of the parameters further comprises calculating values for optional data parameters not specified. VC++, page 375, Data Validation.

Claim 18
A method for determining the value of each of a plurality of parameters for use as an input file to a computer program , the parameters including required and optional parameters , and the method comprising the steps of: determining the specific parameters to provide as part of the input file; receiving values for the required parameters and any optional parameter having a specified value; checking that values for the required parameters to be included as part of the input file are specified, and if not specified, providing an error indication; identifying optional parameters not specified to be included as part of the input file; calculating the value of each of the identified non-specified optional parameters independent of the order of the parameters (Admitted Prior Art as per Figure 2); and providing parameter values as part of the input file for use by the computer program. In view of claim 1 and VC++, page 375, Data Validation.

Claim 19
The method according to claim 18 wherein the parameters further comprise locked parameters and the method further comprises calculating the value of at least some of the locked parameters. As per claim 2 and VC++, page 375, Data Validation.

Claim 20
The method according to claim 19 further comprising providing an error indication for a locked parameter that is input. As per claim 2 and VC++, page 375, Data Validation.

Claim 21
The method according to claim 18 further comprising employing a recursive branching structure for calculating the identified non-specified optional and locked parameter values. As per claims 2 and claim 11.

Claim 22
The method according to claim 21 further comprising automatically determining the order of parameter calculation. Inherent part of control flow as per claim 12.

Claim 23
An interface for guiding a user to provide a data set to a complex computer program , and providing the data set to the complex computer program , the interface comprising:
means for accepting input of at least one required user input from a user ; means for accepting input of at least one optional user input from a user , and in the absence of an input of an optional user input, calculating a default input based upon a predetermined formula using a recursive algorithm; and means for providing the data set of inputs to the complex computer program.
As per claims 1 and 11.

Claim 24
The interface according to claim 23 wherein the predetermined formula for calculating the default input depends upon at least one mandatory user input. As per claim 1 and VC++, page 375, Data Validation.

Claim 25
The interface according, to claim 23 further comprising means for generating at least one locked input. As per claim 2.

Claim 26
The interface according to claim 25 wherein the means for generating at least one fixed input comprises means for calculating the at least one locked input based upon at least one required user input. per claims 1 and 2.

Claim 27
The interface according to claim 25 wherein the means for generating at least one locked input comprises means for calculating the at least one locked input based upon at least one optional user input. As per claims 1 and 2.

Correspondence Information

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Todd Ingberg** whose telephone number is (703) 305-9775. The examiner can normally be reached during the following hours:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6:15 – 1:30	6:15- 3:45	6:15 – 4:45	6:15-3:45	6:15-130

This schedule began December 1, 2003 and is subject to change.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Kakali Chaki** can be reached on (703) 305-9662. Please, note that as of August 4, 2003 the **FAX number** changed for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **(703) 872-9306**.

Also, be advised the United States Patent Office **new address** is

Post Office Box 1450

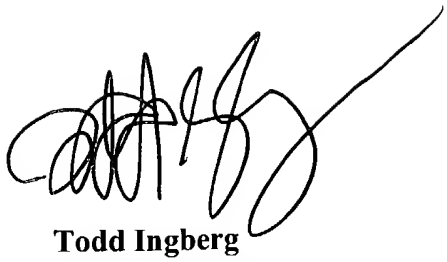
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9700.

Special Notice

15. Please, Note the Examiner's telephone number will change in October when the Art Unit moves to the new location. The Examiner's new telephone number will be as follows:

(571) 272-3723



Todd Ingberg
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2124
October 1, 2004